



Field Journal

E. A. Goldman

Covering New Mexico trip  
June 6 - Dec. 3, 1909.

1909.

June 6-9.

En route from Washington, D.C. to  
Thoreau, New Mexico. Left Washington  
at 5:30<sup>P.M.</sup> June 6 and arrived at  
Thoreau at 5 P.M. June 9.

June 10-11.

Remained at Thoreau. Time spent  
mainly in waiting for baggage and  
for a train over the Zuni Mountain  
Railroad.

June 12.

Left Thoreau and travelled by  
Zuni Mt. R.R. 16 miles in a southeasterly  
course to the small lumber  
settlement of Kettner. From Thoreau  
the R.R. runs southwestward soon  
entering cottonwood canyon which  
it traverses from end to end, emerging  
after four or five miles in an  
open valley and then turns  
southeastward to Kettner.

1909.

June 13.

Left Kettner and travelled by wagon 12 miles in a southeasterly course to Mc Gaffey's camp, situated in the open valley near the head of Bluewater River and just north of Bear Ridge which forms a part of the Continental Divide about 9100 ft. in height.

June 14-19

Remained working at Mc. Gaffey's camp.

June 20.

Moved from Mc Gaffey's camp about 5 miles eastward to Whiteside's camp near Mt. Sedgwick.

June 21-24.

Remained at Whiteside's camp, working the vicinity of Mt. Sedgwick.

June 25.

Returned to Mc Gaffey's camp.

June 26.

Left Mc. Gaffey's camp and travelled

by wagon about three miles down  
the Guni Mt. R.R. to where the train  
was working. Arrived at Thoreau by  
rail in the evening.

June 27-28  
Remained working on reports at Thoreau, N.M.

July 29. New Mex.

Reached Thoreau from Leaf. and  
resumed field work at 230 P.M.

Recent rains have brought up the grass  
and the plains are quite green.

July 30

Remained at Thoreau doing a little  
work and preparing to leave tomorrow for  
Willcox, Arizona.

July 31

Left Thoreau about 3 P.M. by rail  
and arrived at Albuquerque about 7 P.M.  
en route to Willcox, Arizona.

Aug. 1.

Continued on from Albuquerque at  
12.20 A.M. and reached Denning at  
9.30 A.M. Left Denning at 11.38 and  
arrived at Willcox, Arizona where I  
joined Dr. Fisher about 4 P.M.

Aug. 2.

Remained at Willcox making preparations to go out to a ranch to carry on experiments on poisons for prairie dogs.

Aug. 3.

Left Willcox with heavy team and travelled about 12 miles northwest to J. H. cattle ranch where we settled down to experiment with poisons. In the afternoon we located holes in abundance for our purpose.

Aug. 4

Remained at J. H. cattle ranch. Poisons were prepared and placed at 110 holes, Dr. Fisher taking one kind and I another.

Aug. 5

Remained at J. H. cattle ranch about 12 miles northwest of Willcox, Arizona. The two kinds of poisons placed yesterday were both apparently effective. One consisted of rolled barley treated simply

with strychnine; the other of rolled barley treated with strychnine and saccharine. We were gratified to find that ~~both~~ were well taken. In the afternoon we treated a number of holes with rolled barley poisoned with strychnine and cyanide of potassium to which was added oil of anise and saccharine. Holes treated with the simpler combinations were <sup>killed</sup>.

Aug. 6.

Remained at J. H. cattle ranch about 12 miles northwest of Willcox. The doubly poisoned barley placed at prairie dog holes yesterday afternoon was not so well taken as the simpler combinations placed day before yesterday. Some of the holes blocked yesterday afternoon were still closed apparently indicating that the occupants were killed; others were dug out showing that the prairie dogs are very numerous.

Aug. 7.

Dr. Fisher and I visited experiments started yesterday and then made a trip to the hills west of the J.H. cattle ranch. We climbed up over the basal slopes which are covered largely with Quercus macrocarpa, Q. arizonica, Q. hypoleuca, Diospyros, Leurocarpus and other shrub less abundant.

Aug. 8.

Dr. Fisher and I returned from the J.H. cattle ranch to Willcox where we are to try further experiments in poisoning prairie dogs tomorrow.

Aug. 9

Remained at Willcox. Whole family was treated with strychnine, saccharine and egg and placed at burrows of prairie dogs. Very little of this preparation was eaten by the dogs before a very heavy shower which fell during the afternoon and interfered with further observations.



Aug. 10.

Left Willcox at 9:47 A.M. for Socorro, New Mex. Arrived at Deming at 2.26 and waited there until 7 P.M. when I left Deming for Socorro.

Aug. 11

Arrived at Socorro about 2 A.M. and began work <sup>during the day</sup> by setting out traps.

Aug. 12-13.

Remained at Socorro working in the vicinity of the town.

Aug. 14.

Remained at Socorro.

Aug. 15-25

Remained working in the vicinity of Socorro and across the east side of the valley. On the 18 a trip was made to the Ojo de la Parda about 10 miles northwest of Socorro, returning <sup>east</sup> the following day. The eastern slopes of the valley for some miles are much more sandy - large areas being <sup>than the western</sup> composed entirely of loose, drifting

sand.

Aug. 26.

Left Socorro with team, and wagon with driver for Magdalena. The road led about five miles up the valley to Luniar and then turned abruptly westward and climbed up gradually through a narrow canyon through the Socorro Mts. north of Socorro Peak. These mts. are rocky and barren and do not rise above the Upper Sonoran zone. Finally passing through the mountains we came out on a ridge along the west side from which a short and easy descent brought us into the bottom of plain about 10 miles across, between the Socorro and Magdalena Mts. We crossed the plain to the east base of the Magdalena Mts, and passed around the north end of the range to the town situated at the northwest base.

Aug. 27

Retraced a few miles of the road travelled yesterday and skirted the east base of the Magdalena Mts.

south to the mouth of Water Canyon about 15 miles southeast of Magdalena where I camped.

Aug. 28 - Sept. 4.

Remained at camp in the mouth of Water Canyon, from which the adjacent mountain slopes were worked up along Water and Copper Canyons to the summit of the range.

The Magdalena Mts. rise abruptly on both sides from high plains. The range is about 25 miles long and extends from north to south. At the south end an Upper Sonoran plain about 10 miles or more across appears to reach down into the Rio Grande Valley thus completely isolating the Magdalena & San Mateo ranges. The high plain, about 10 miles across, immediately east of the Magdalena Mts. and separating it from the Socorro Mts. is basin shaped, the drainage from Water Canyon crossing it and descending through a rugged canyon through the Socorro Mts. to the Rio Grande near Socorro. Old Baldy the highest peak of the Magdalena Mts. must be

about 11000 ft. in height. I ascended Copper Canyon to the summit of the range a short distance north of Old Baldy and got aneroid readings of over 10000 feet.

Sept. 5

Left camp in Water Canyon & moved about 15 miles to Magdalena.

Sept. 6-8

Remained at Magdalena.

Sept. 9

Left Magdalena and travelled about 23 miles in a southwesterly course to Monica Spring.

The road traverses a rolling plain which near Monica Spring becomes more level along the northeastern end of the extensive area known as the Plains of San Augustine. The more level portions of the road today ran across treeless areas, but the low hills and rolling stretches are largely covered with Pinus edulis & Juniperus monosperma.

Sept. 10.

From camp at Monica Spring a trip was made to the summit of one

of the highest peaks of the San Mateo mts. near the head of Monica Canyon where I got an aneroid reading of 9800 ft. and a higher peak about a mile away, locally called Mt. Weatherston, was evidently over 200 feet higher. The San Mateo mts. here form an irregular mass, with a <sup>general</sup> trend from east to west by southwest. They slope up rather gradually from the San Augustine plains, but on the east break off abruptly facing the Rio Grande Valley.

Sept. 11

Another trip was made to the summit of the San Mateo mts. to bring down traps set yesterday.

A belt of Canadian zone covers the north slopes near the summit of the range.

Sept. 12-13.

From camp near Monica Spring work was carried on along the basal slopes of the San Mateo mts. and on Indian Butte, an outlying mesa with precipitous sides, differing conspicuously from the neighboring hills which all have more

gradual, less broken slopes.

Sept. 14

From camp at Monica Spring continued work along the lower part of Monica Canyon.

Sept. 15

From camp at Monica Spring I made a trip on horseback, with traps, to the bottom of the sandy San Augustine Plain 12 miles northwest of the spring. This part of the plain is composed of loose drifting sand and is very different in character from the gradually sloping side lying next to the San Mateo Mts., which is hard and gravelly.

Sept. 16-18

Continued work on the San Augustine Plain, returning each day at evening to Monica Spring camp.

Sept. 19-25

Spent mainly in carrying on experiments with prairie dog poisons on the San Augustine Plain near

Monica Spring.

Sept. 26

Left Monica Spring and travelled about <sup>15</sup>~~20~~ miles in a southwesterly direction to Point of Rocks, so named from the rocky point which projects from the San Mateo Mts., along the southern border of the San Augustine Plain.

Sept. 27

Left Point of Rocks and travelled about 15 miles in a southerly direction and camped on the Rio Alamosa at the mouth of Livestock Canyon. From the southern edge of the San Augustine near Point of Rocks the road turns southward, ascending gradually for a few miles and crossing at about 8000 ft. elevation the divide between the basin of the San Augustine Plain and the head of the Rio Alamosa. The road south of the divide follows the Rio Alamosa, the hills on either side rising a short distance away.

Sept. 28-29.

Remained working along the Rio

Alamora at the mouth of Limestone Canyon.

Sept. 30.

Left camp at mouth of Limestone Canyon and travelled southward about 35 miles to Fairview.

Road descended along the broad, <sup>dry</sup> open wash of the Rio Alamora for about 15 miles to Ojo Caliente.

At this point the Rio Alamora <sup>turns north to the southeast and</sup> enters a box canyon and the road to Fairview turns out and continues southward up a broad wash to the top of a divide at about 7200 ft., crossing which it descends a wash in the upper part of the drainage area of the Rio Cuachillo. The wash is dry all the way down to Fairview.

Oct. 1-2.

Remained at Fairview making reports and preparing to leave in the morning.

Oct. 2.

Left Fairview and returned <sup>for 70 miles</sup> along the road travelled Sept. 30, as far as Ojo Caliente where I was obliged



to camp on account of high water in the Rio Alamosa.

Oct. 3

Left Ojo Caliente and descended the Rio Alamosa about 6 miles and then turned up San Mateo Canyon, camping about two miles above the mouth of the canyon not far from the base of San Mateo Peak.

Oct. 4.

From camp in San Mateo Canyon I ascended to the top of San Mateo Peak, distant about 10 miles returning to camp in the evening.

Oct. 5

Another round trip was made to the summit of San Mateo Peak and traps set yesterday were brought down.

Oct. 6.

From camp in San Mateo Canyon a trip was made to traps about 6 miles away on the basal slope of San Mateo Peak.

Oct. 7.

Returned from camp in San Mateo

Canyon to Fairview, distant about  
28 miles

Oct. 8

Remained at Fairview. Two experiments  
with prairie dog poisons were started,

Oct. 9-10

Continued prairie dog poison experiments  
at Fairview.

Oct. 11

Left Fairview and travelled about  
12 miles west to near the summit of  
the Black Range west of Ahlonide.  
The road ascended a canyon leading  
out to Ahlonide.

Oct. 12

Returned from the Black Range about  
12 miles to Fairview and resumed tests  
of prairie dog poisons.

Oct. 13-20.

Continued prairie dog poison experiments  
at Fairview.

Oct. 21

Left Fairview and travelled about 25  
miles to Leuchills, New Mex.

Road today ascended and crossed the  
low Leuchills Mountains and then descended  
over a gradually sloping plain to the

small settlement of Cucillos on Cucillos creek where the elevation is about 4700 feet.

Oct. 22

Remained at Cucillos to examine conditions about the irrigated lands along Cucillos creek, in that vicinity.

Oct. 23

Put team which I had been using continuously home and with another hired team travelled from Cucillos <sup>18 miles</sup> to Las Palomas on the Rio Grande.

Road descended over the gradually sloping, Lower Sonoran mesa all the way from Cucillos to Las Palomas.

Oct. 24-28

Remained working in the vicinity of Las Palomas.

Oct. 29.

Left Las Palomas and travelled 30 miles southwest to Hillsboro.

Road ascended the gradually sloping, Lower Sonoran mesa to within about 5 miles when it entered among low, but rocky hills through which it passed to the town.

Oct. 30-31

Remained working at Hellsboro.

Nov. 1

Left Hellsboro and travelled 13 miles west to Kingston.

Road led up through the foothills along the little valley of the Rio Puerco, passing through box canyons and over rolling hills. The altitude of Kingston is about 6200. It was formerly an important mining camp, but has been deadend for 10 or 15 years.

Nov. 2-7.

Remained working in the vicinity of Kingston and up to the top of the Mimbres Range four or five miles west of the town. A trip was made to the summit of Sawyer Peak, one of the highest of the range and the most southern of the high peaks of this vicinity.

Nov. 8

Left Kingston and travelled back to Hellsboro, 13 miles, and on south for about 18 miles to Lake Valley.

Road led through gently rolling hills becoming a little rougher when within about five miles of Lake Valley, ascending slightly to near the upper border of the Lower Sonoran Zone, and then ascending to about 5500 ft. at Lake Valley. Lake Valley is an old mining camp. Millions in silver have been taken out of places now marked by old dumps overgrown with Acacia, Covillea and a few Fouquieria bushes.

Nov. 9-14.

Remained working in the immediate vicinity of Lake Valley and for four or five miles to the alfalfa field and small marsh northeast of town.

Nov. 15

Left Lake Valley and travelled by rail to Rincon, New Mex.

Nov. 16

Left Rincon and drove about 20 miles up the Rio Grande Valley to the small settlement of Garfield.

Nov. 17-21

Remained working in the valley along the Rio Grande in the vicinity of Garfield, New Mexico.

Nov. 22

Left Garfield and drove about 20 miles down the Rio Grande Valley to Rincon where in the afternoon I took the train to Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Nov. 23

Remained at Las Cruces. Traps were set in fields and among sand dunes near the river. The sand dunes extend in places quite close to the river. In other places alfalfa fields extend to the river bank.

Nov. 24

Remained at Las Cruces. Traps were reset, mainly for Dipodomys and Thomomys in and along fields near the river and other traps were set in the sandy country east of town.

Nov. 25-28

Remained working in the vicinity of  
Las Cruces, N. Mex.

Nov. 29

Left Las Cruces for Washington.

Nov. 30 - Dec. 3.

En route from Las Cruces to Washington,  
D.C., Arrived at Washington, Dec. 3.